



Connecticut Chapter

Testimony by Chris Syrek, President of
Associated Builders & Contractors of Connecticut

Before the General Law Committee on February 24, 2015

HB 6808 An Act Concerning Enforcement of Certain Occupational Licensing Statutes

Good afternoon, my name is Chris Syrek; I am the President of Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut (CT ABC). CT ABC is a statewide trade association of almost 200 members that represents merit shop contractors. We appreciate the opportunity to address the members of the General Law Committee regarding HB 6808.

CT ABC is supportive of contractors in the field carrying the appropriate license, and making sure that each license is current. Licensing is extremely important to ensure quality craftsmanship, safety, the appropriate level of training for apprentices on a jobsite. We are also supportive of a process in which alleged violations can be reviewed by the Department of Consumer Protection and the appropriate licensing board.

However, CT ABC believes that the current standard, which would require a "willful" violation of the law in order for a stop work order to be issued, is appropriate and does not need to be changed to include negligence. The negligent standard risks punishing workers who intend to do the right thing, and grouping them in with those who intentionally break the law.

CT ABC agrees that no unlicensed contractors should be working on jobsites, but would like to see this bill reviewed and reconsidered to make sure that there are no unintended consequences in the bill that could be harmful to honest and qualified contractors.